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Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism

6 September 1978

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Mexican Diplomat's Son Dies After Kidnaping

On the evening of 29 August 1978 Hugo Margain, Jr., the 35-year-old son of the Mexican Ambassador to the U.S., was kidnaped and shortly thereafter died. Margain was seized from the campus of the National University in Mexico City, where he was Director of the Institute of Philosophy, while riding in his auto with an associate. Four men and one woman succeeded in kidnaping Margain despite a hail of gunfire from the victim's bodyguards.

During the attack Margain, his associate, two of the victim's bodyguards, and one attacker were wounded. Margain, the wounded attacker and the rest of the kidnapers escaped in another vehicle later found abandoned. Margain's associate, a British national, was taken by authorities to a local hospital, treated, and released.

The body of Margain, wounded in the right thigh by a nine millimeter bullet, was found on 30 August dumped near the town of Chalco a few miles from Mexico City. Authorities said that the bullet severed an artery and Margain bled to death despite the apparent efforts of his kidnapers to treat the wound. The authorities estimated that Margain died within three hours of being shot, accounting for the lack of ransom demands from the kidnapers. As of 1 September about 1000 policemen were searching for the kidnapers. In a pamphlet left at the scene, Mexico's 23rd of September Communist League claimed responsibility for the kidnaping.

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